

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A composition in the form of a dry powder ~~and which comprises~~ consisting essentially of:

- a) at least one membrane lipid,
- b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid, and
- c) a xanthine,

and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said membrane lipid comprises a phospholipid or mixture of phospholipids.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said biologically active compound comprises an α -hydroxycarboxylic acid, a β -hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an α -ketocarboxylic acid.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said biologically active compound is salicylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the xanthine is caffeine.

Claim 18 (Previously Added) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the proportion of said membrane lipid to said biologically active compound is from 1:20 to 20:1 by weight.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a composition in the form of a dry powder and which composition ~~comprises~~ consisting essentially of:

- a) at least one membrane lipid,
- b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid, and
- c) a xanthine,

and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, which process comprises either mixing or milling together the components to produce a homogeneous dry powder, or dispersing/dissolving the above components, either sequentially or simultaneously, in a solvent, subsequently removing the said solvent so as to form a solid mixture and then pulverizing the said solid mixture to produce a homogeneous dry powder.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) A dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution consisting essentially of at least one biologically active compound and a xanthine which comprises a carboxylic acid and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution of at least one biologically active compound which comprises a carboxylic acid and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration, which method comprises dispersing/dissolving a dry powder composition which composition ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of:

- a) at least one membrane lipid,
- b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid, and
- c) a xanthine,

and which composition forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, or the components of such a composition, with the said components being dispersed or dissolved either sequentially or simultaneously, in an aqueous medium.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) A dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution consisting essentially of at least one biologically active compound which comprises a carboxylic acid and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration, or as prepared by a method which comprises dispersing/dissolving a dry powder composition which composition ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of:

- a) at least one membrane lipid,
- b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid, and
- c) a xanthine,

and which composition forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, or the components of such a composition, with the said components being dispersed or dissolved either sequentially or simultaneously, in an aqueous medium, and which dispersion is in the form of a cream, gel or lotion formulated for topical administration.